

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

9 May 1986

Mr. Edward Eisele
President
Holsum Bakery, Inc.
Phoenix, Arizona 85005

Dear Mr. Eisele:

I've checked with the Director of the Soviet office at the State Department about your itinerary and the potential health hazard. State's view is that Americans should currently avoid travelling to Kiev and adjacent areas. At this point, however, State is not advising against travel to any other areas in the USSR. For your further information, State regards the Moscow and Leningrad areas to be safe on the basis of independent US Government testing. Our own information is consistent with this.

Neither we nor State are aware of any Soviet sense of concern about the Tbilisi and Samarkand areas. The latter two places also are a considerable distance from the Chernobyl-Kiev area (Tbilisi, the closer of the two, is more than 800 miles away).

Therefore, as the situation currently stands, there is no special reason related to the recent events at Chernobyl that your group shouldn't travel as planned. Nevertheless, it might be worthwhile to check with the US Embassy in Moscow and Consulate in Leningrad when you arrive in those cities as to whether they have any concern about vegetables, milk products, etc. They will also be aware of any further cautions to travellers in the USSR, if any, at the time. I hope this helps.

I am looking forward to our meeting on the 24th and speaking with the Young Presidents' Organization. It was kind of Warren Rustand to send his regards.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Letter to Holsum Bakery

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May 2, 1986

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Dr. Gates:

We are certainly looking forward to your presentation to the Young Presidents' Organization group on Saturday, May 24, 1986, on KGB activities and disinformation. Your presentation will highlight our "Washington Briefing".

In the last several days, I have received a number of inquiries from tour participants who are concerned about the safety of our trip to Leningrad, Tbilisi, Samaarkand, and Moscow in light of the recent problem the Soviets have had with one of their nuclear reactors. Not having any more to go on than what we all hear in the press, I'm wondering what your opinion and guidance to us might be at this juncture? While we have worked quite some time to prepare for this study tour, if, in your opinion, the health risk is such that a postponement would be prudent, I would not have a problem making such a decision. Any input you might have at your earliest convenience will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Eisele".

Edward Eisele
President

EE/mk

P.S. Warren Rustand sends his very best regards to you.